

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
November 8, 2016



Karl Reichle helps workers sorting and packing Butternut squash at his family's East Windsor farm.

WHERE POTATOES AND SWEET CORN ONCE RULED, WINTER SQUASH NOW DOMINATES

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

EAST WINDSOR – Karl Reichle wants nothing to do with peeling a rock-hard Butternut squash.

But the rising popularity of the vegetable, in conjunction with an increased use of automatic peelers in processing facilities, has made Butternut and other varieties the dominant crop at his family's Reichle Farms.

Most of their 130 acres of squash is sold to commercial processors in Massachusetts, Maine and Rhode Island, where it is peeled and cut for direct distribution to grocery stores.

"This crop has mushroomed in the last 15 years," Reichle said Monday as he supervised a crew sorting and packing approximately 1,000-pound bins for shipment. "Butternut squash is good for you but it's hard to peel. That's where we found our niche."

And it's a pretty big niche, prompting him and brother Glenn to more than triple their squash crop over the last four years.

"Last year it was two-and-a-half million pounds and this year will be pretty close to that," Karl said after climbing out of a forklift in their Graham Road warehouse. "The big push is now until Thanksgiving."

Most of their fields are in Butternut, and they also raise some Acorn and Spaghetti. All are members of the *Cucurbit* plant family, which also includes pumpkins, cucumbers, zucchini, and some gourds.

The crop is planted in mid-May, matures in late September and is harvested until late October. This year's hot, dry conditions reduced their yield a bit, but irrigation prevented any significant loss.

"Squash tolerates heat pretty well but it needs water," Reichle said. "We pumped water for 19 days this year."

The benefit to customers from the drier conditions is that it tends to produce a vegetable that will store longer into the winter.

Reichle said despite its hardy appearance and texture, squash is susceptible to diseases like downy and powdery mildew, and especially phytophthora crown rot, which he says "scares every squash grower."

In an effort to prevent those diseases, the Reichles are disciplined about rotating their squash fields with a crop of rye.

They also grow about 10 acres of potatoes, which was the farm's original signature crop when it was run by the family patriarch, Earl, and his wife Barbara.

"My father's grown potatoes his entire life," Reichle said. "He's 90 and he's out picking in the potato fields right now."

Over the years, the farm also became known for its sweet corn, sold at the popular Corn Crib stand that the family ran

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LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	54.00	58.50
boners 80-85% lean	54.00	58.50
lean 88-90% lean	48.00	52.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	99.00	103.00
Choice 2-3	95.00	101.00
Sel 1-2	92.00	96.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	93.00	96.50
Ch 2-3	85.00	92.00
Sel 1-2	78.00	84.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Ch 2-3	90.00	95.50
Sel 1-2	82.00	90.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 114-128 lbs	95.00	96.00
No 1 94-112 lbs	100.00	118.00
No 1 90-92 lbs	85.00	85.00
FEEDER STEERS - Med & Lge 1		
300-400 lbs	130.00	145.00
400-500 lbs	130.00	145.00
500-600 lbs	134.00	134.00
600-700 lbs	110.00	128.00
700-800 lbs	114.00	117.00
800-900 lbs	102.00	118.00
1000-1300 lbs	97.00	102.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
70-80 lbs	225.00	225.00
90-110 lbs	185.00	202.00
110-130 lbs	172.00	190.00
130-150 lbs	155.00	180.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	95.00	120.00
120-160 lbs	80.00	100.00
160-200 lbs	67.00	95.00
200-300 lbs	60.00	85.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	175.00	200.00
130-180 lbs	215.00	245.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	210.00	245.00
150-250 lbs	240.00	275.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	41.00	47.00
	300-400 lbs	33.00	38.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	33.00	41.00
	300-400 lbs	30.00	32.00
Sows, US 1-3	400-500 lbs	28.00	34.50
	500-600 lbs	31.50	32.00
Boars	200-300 lbs	15.00	25.00
	350-950 lbs	8.50	10.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA. FEEDER PIGS

November 2, 2016. Per cwt.

US 1-2	20-30 lbs	70.00	90.00
	20-30 lbs	150.00	150.00
	30-40 lbs	50.00	70.00
	40-50 lbs	40.00	75.00
	50-60 lbs	75.00	85.00
US	20-30 lbs	40.00	80.00
	30-40 lbs	65.00	75.00
	40-50 lbs	50.00	60.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFANCY, 72	31.00	31.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFANCY, 80	30.00	31.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, XFANCY, 88	31.00	31.00
APPLE, CORT, CTN, LOOSE	30.00	30.00
APPLE, HNYCRISP, XFNCY, 64	70.00	70.00
APPLE, HNYCRISP, XFNCY, 72	70.00	70.00
APPLES, HNYCRISP, XFNCY, 80	70.00	70.00
APPLES, HNYCRISP, XFNCY, 88	70.00	70.00
APPLE, HNYCRISP, CTN, LOOSE	52.00	55.00
APPLES, MCINTOSH, LOOSE	24.00	26.00
APPLE, MAC, FCY, 2-1/2", 12-3LB	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MAC, US 1, 140, 120	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MAC, FANCY, 120, 140	18.00	18.00
APPLE, MACOUN, CTN, LOOSE	32.00	35.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFNCY, 72	33.00	34.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFNCY, 88	33.00	34.00
APPLE, MACOUN, XFNCY, 100	30.00	31.00
BEANS, CRANBERRY, BU	40.00	40.00
BEETS, GOLD, LOOSE, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
BEETS, RED, LOOSE, 25 LBS	6.00	6.00
CABBAGE, 50 LBS	12.00	12.00
CABBAGE, SAVOY, 50 LBS	15.00	15.00
CAULIFLOWER, FLTJKTPAK, 9	18.00	18.00
CAULIFLOWER, FLTJKTPAK, 12	16.00	18.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	19.00	21.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	21.00	22.50
COLLARDS, BUNCHED, 12	12.00	12.00
CRANBERRIES, 24-12 OZ	26.00	28.00
DILL, 24 BNCHES/CRATE	14.00	14.00
EGGPLANT, THAI, 20 LBS	15.00	16.00
KALE, BUNCHED, 12	13.00	15.00
KALE, BUNCH	1.00	1.00
PARSNIPS, 20 LB, LOOSE	20.00	21.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1 LB	21.00	23.00
PEPPERS, GREEN, FAIR, 1-1/9	8.00	8.00
PIE, SMALL, 1-1/9	15.00	16.00
PIE, M-L, 36" BIN	220.00	240.00
RADISHES, 24 BUNCHES	13.00	14.00
SQUASH, ACORN, BTNT, 1-1/9	12.00	16.00
SQUASH, ACORN, BUTNT, /LB	.90	1.25
SQUASH, BUTTERCUP, 1-1/9	12.00	16.00
SQUASH, SPAGHETTI, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
TOM, GHSE, CHRRYONVINE, 5 LB	10.00	14.00
TOMATO, GHSE, CHRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00
TOMATO, GHSE HEIRLM, 10 LB	23.00	25.00
TURNIPS, PURPLE TOP, 25 LBS	10.00	10.00
TURNIP, WHITE CAPE, 1-1/9	32.00	32.00

WHOLESALE NORTHEAST POTATOES

\$ per unit.

RED, 50 LBS	15.00	15.00
ROUND WHITE, #1, CHEF, 50 LB	11.00	11.00
RUSSET, #1, 50	13.00	14.00
RUSSET, #1, 60	13.00	14.00
RUSSET, #1, 70	13.00	14.00
RUSSET, #1, 80	13.00	14.50
RUSSET, #1, 90	13.00	14.00
RUSSET, #1, 100	11.00	13.00
RUSSET, #1, 120	11.00	13.00
RUSSET, #1, 10 OZ MIN, 50 LBS	11.00	12.00

NEW ENGLAND ORNAMENTALS - WHOLESALE

\$/Per unit.

ILEX, NE, 10 BUNCHES	15.00	15.00
SNAPDRAGON, NE, 10/BUNCH	12.50	13.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - November 7, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	52.00	55.00
61-75 lbs.	65.00	67.50
76-90 lbs.	68.00	70.00
91-105 lbs.	72.50	75.00
106 lbs. & up	77.50	80.00
Farm Calves	82.50	87.00
Starter Calves	45.00	50.00
Veal Calves	100.00	127.50
Open Heifers	85.00	120.00
Beef Heifers	75.00	80.00
Feeder Steers	115.00	130.00
Beef Steers	94.00	97.00
Stock Bulls	125.00	150.00
Beef Bulls	75.00	85.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars (sold by dollar)	25.00	40.00
Sows	15.00	21.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	95.00	190.00
Lambs each	50.00	235.00
Goats each	60.00	285.00
Kid Goats each	35.00	130.00
Canners	up to	54.00
Cutters	55.00	130.00
Utility Grade Cows	60.00	64.00
Rabbits each	3.00	29.00
Chickens each	2.00	15.00
Ducks each	5.00	20.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.73	.91
LARGE	.67	.81
MEDIUM	.52	.65

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.18	1.27
LARGE	1.10	1.19
MEDIUM	.70	.80
SMALL	.49	.59

WEEKLY LAMB PELT REPORT

Per piece. Price estimated credit. Week ending November 4, 2016.

UNSHORN		
SUPREME	6.50	7.50
PREMIUM	(2.00)	3.25
STANDARD	(2.00)	1.75
FAIR	(2.50)	1.00
MIXED CLASS	(2.50)	0.50
DAMAGED/PULLER	(2.50)	(2.25)
SHORN		
SUPREME	1.50	5.50
PREMIUM	(2.25)	2.50
STANDARD	(2.25)	1.00
FAIR	(2.25)	(1.00)
MIXED CLASS	(2.50)	(2.25)
DAMAGED/PULLER	(2.50)	(2.25)

VERMONT FARMERS MARKET - LAMB

Price per lb.

LAMB CHOPS	17.50	18.00
RACK OF LAMB	18.00	18.00
LEG OF LAMB	12.00	15.00
GROUND LAMB	10.00	11.00

(Continued from Page 1)

for decades on Buckland Road in South Windsor. But the farm's current concentration on squash is unmistakable, evidenced by the sprawling fields now littered with damaged squash to the warehouse stacked with squash bins - and even the farm's business card.

On a colorful backdrop of a variety of squashes, the card touts the farm's commitment to "Growing exceptional winter squash," and encourages potential customers to contact the farm through its email address: wintersquash4u@gmail.com.

GOVERNOR PLEDGES CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FARMING DURING HEBRON VISIT

Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Revczky visited Mapleleaf Farm in Hebron recently, where the Governor told a group of dairy farmers that he remains committed to state programs that preserve and restore farmland.

Mapleleaf Farm is one of more than 315 farms encompassing 42,000 acres whose development rights have been acquired by the state under its Farmland Preservation Program, ensuring they will remain available for agricultural production in perpetuity.

"That's forever," Malloy said as he toured the farm late last month with owner Ned Ellis, who has protected 450 of his 600 acres under the program. "It lives beyond us and goes on and on and on."

Revczky noted that Governor's support of the program enabled it to protect 20 farms in 2015, a record number that likely will be approached or matched this year. Malloy also said he was proud to have created the Farmland Restoration Program in 2011, which



offers matching grants to encourage farmers to bring fallow land back into production by clearing brush, rocks and stumps and making other improvements.

"This land was so muddy - now we can farm it," Ellis told Malloy as he pointed out a 7-acre field restored with one of the grants.

Malloy, who described spending time as a boy at his uncle's small farm in East Hartland, assured Ellis and several other farmers along for the tour that despite the state's budget challenges he will do whatever he can to maintain funding for state agricultural programs.

"I know business is hard, being a farmer is hard, but thank God we have farmers," Malloy said. "We've been good partners."

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

89-R. Beautiful winter squash, Acorn, Butternut, Spaghetti by the box or bin. East Windsor, Connecticut. Call Karl 860-268-5931 or Glenn 860-930-4331 to arrange pick up.

99-R. Lynn Blackmer, Nationwide Farm Master Certified Agent, Woodstock, CT. Farm, commercial, life insurance, and more. Cell: 860-377-8947 to see how Nationwide compares.

100-R. For Sale: Christmas greens, wreaths and roping. Many sizes and varieties. Excellent for fund raisers. 203-457-1344.

102-R. Ion Insurance now offers Agri-Business insurance. For all of your personal and business needs, we've got you covered. Contact us today: loninsurance.com, 203-729-5261 or toll-free 800-801-8013.

110-R. Used 12' pressure treated fence posts. Quantity pricing. Call or text 860-559-3009 or 860-888-3798.

115-R. Screened or unscreened leaf compost in quantities from 5 to 5,000 cubic yards. Also screened topsoil and topsoil and topsoil/compost mix (50/50). We will custom blend on orders over 50 yards. Growers be sure to ask about discount for large volume users. We also carry a full line of landscape mulch, Premium and colored. Supreme Forest Products, Southington, CT 06489. 860-485-1636.

116-R. Two Hereford-Murray Grey heifer crosses. 7 months old -good size-open. \$700.00 each. Call 860-859-2412.

117. For Sale: Canadian Chain, with original barrel, single-mesh, farm studded, 11.2 x 28. Lyme, 860-526-3589, or 860-853-8429.

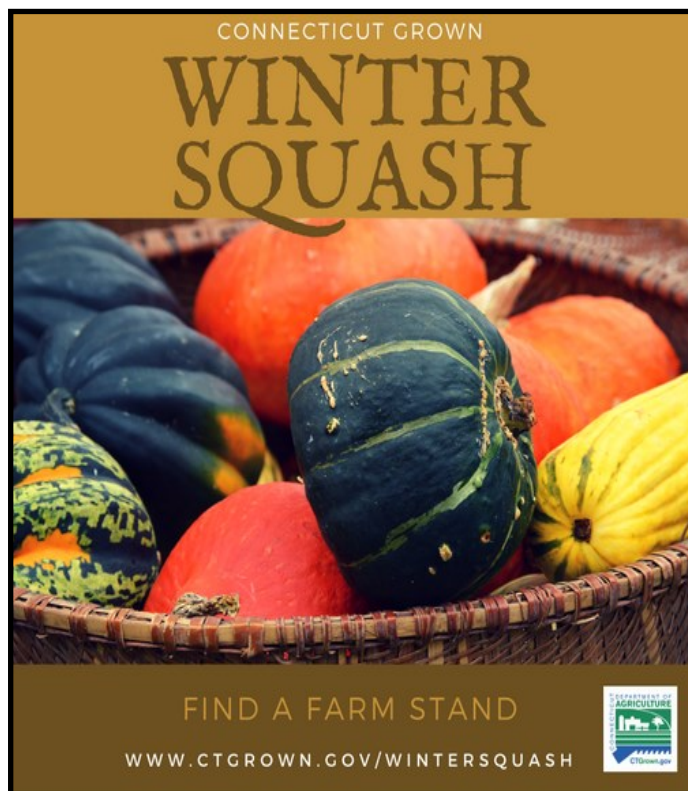
WANTED

105-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/softwood, especially sugar maple/white oak. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

111-R. Bulldozing in E. CT. Need water call Don Kemp. Will dig farm ponds any size. Lots of experience. 860-546-9500.



Top left: A graphic that is part of the Dept. of Agriculture's promotion of winter squash in November on social media and the Department's website, as well as on broadcast and internet radio.

Above: A harvested squash field at Reichle Farms in East Windsor, where (below left) 1,000-pound bins of the vegetable are ready for shipping.



FREE WEBINAR FOR BEGINNING FARMERS

Tune into **Business Basics for Beginning Farmers** as Chris Laughton, Director of Knowledge Exchange at Farm Credit East, and Gary Matteson, Vice President for Young, Beginning, Small Farmer Programs and Outreach at the Farm Credit Council, cover some business management concepts important for the success of beginning farmers.

This free webinar is Tuesday, November 15 from 11am –noon and will cover basic financial statements, cash flow, budgets and approaching a lender, along with tips beginning farmers have used to achieve their goals.

Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2571461207333524738>

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